BY T. BUCHANAN READ.

I stood by the open casement And looked upon the night, And saw the westward going stars Pass slowly out of sight.

Slowly the bright possession Went down the gleaming arch, And my soul discerned the music Of their long triumphal march

Till the great celestial army, Stretched far beyond the poles Became the eternal symbol Of the mighty march of souls.

Onward, forever onward, Red Mars led down his clan, And the moon, like a mailed maiden Was riding in the van.

And some were bright in beauty, And some were faint and small, But these might be in their greatest height The noblest of them all.

Downward, forever downward Behind earth's dusky shore, They passed into the unknown night, They passed-and were no more. No more! Oh, say not so!

And downward is not just. For the sight is weak and the sense is dim That looks through heated dust. The stars and the mailed moon, Though they seem to fall and die,

Still sweep with their embattled lines, An endless reach of sky. And though the hills of death May hide the bright array,

The marshalled brotherhood of souls

Still keeps its upward way. Upward, forever upward, I see their march sublime, And hear the glorious music

Of the conquerors of time. And long let me remember That the palest, faintest one, May to diviner vision be

A bright and blessed sun.

For the Standard

No one can doubt that an epoch has arisen in the history of our country. A portion of our people have long thought that the States had a right to secede from the Union for cause which to them seemed sufficient .-Another and a larger portion believed that in cases of disagreement between a State and the United States the matter should be referred to the Supreme Court of the United States, and that their decision should be binding on all parties. But this arbitrament not being agreed to, acquiesence or war on the part of the United States were the only alternatives in our late efforts to secede,-The latter was adopted and the decision was against those who claimed the right of secession. It was the last and terrible arbitrament, and its decision should be accepted as

But its progress and result evolved and established other and important consequences, among which the abolition of slavery is not the least grave. The condition of the negro in the South has been swiftly, and radically changed. He stands forth now a freedman, among his former masters and in his old locality. With his old habit hard upon him, and in utter poverty, he is proposition as such, in the body politic; but, with what powers and privileges the future must disclose. His color has not been change and will not be. Can the leopard changed his spots or the Ethiopian his skin But until that occurs, an assimilation and harmony, in feelings and sentiments between him and the white race, is utterly impossible. Nature would teach this, and experiments in the free States, the West Indies and elsewhere confirm it. It is a waste of words to discuss it. It is a most barren abstraction to look for such a result anywhere, and sheer madness to expect it where education and long habits have indelibly sealed the teachings of nature. What is to be done then? Shall be be enslaved again? Never! if he can be otherwise properly located and cared for. And this brings me to the great question of colonization. But without sugges-ting any plans for this purpose, or dwelling upon its feasibility, I propose first to state briefly some of the great advantages which I think would flow from such a course. And I do so because I am fully pursuaded that a great Government like ours, with its immense resources, backed by so many millions of free, educated and resolute white men, can effect almost any legitimate purpose which they may undertake. Let the sentiment, that it is right and important to colo nize the negro, become general throughout our limits, and the end will soon follow. If with our whole people there shall be the will, the way will open at their bidding .-Those who can do so much when divided and struggling in the bloody fields of strife will not be found impotent when united in a great measure of peace, of mutual advantage and of christian philanthropy.

Let me premise a few geneneral statements. In a country of ordinary fertility and healthfulness and possessing the common advantages of agriculture, commerce, manufacturing and mining, a safe, wholesome and prosperous rate of population may be placed at 100 to the square mile. England and Wales have largely over 300 to the square mile,-France has about 200 and all Europe will average about 70 to the square mile. In our country, Massachusetts and Rhode Island have years ago, largely exceeded that point, and several others of our most properous States, such as New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, &c., have nearly attained it.

The States formerly known as slave States, Virginia, North-Carelina, South-Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida and Texas, have, say, 8,000,000 of population and average only about 10 persons to the square mile, including white and black. And if we count the crim I free negroes, we may assume that half of that-number are blacks.— If these were removed this whole area, consisting of about 770,000 square miles would

have only about 5 persons to the square mile. Another statement. In 1790, the United States had a population of about 4,000,000. In 1850, it was about 24,000,000. The increase being at the rate of 10 per cent. per annum of 600 per cent. in 60 years. The blacks being removed, and the rate of increase of population, in the area stated, being as that of the United States; in 100 years, it would reach 40,000,000, which would be a little over 50 to the square mile.

And now think of it—the blacks being re-

moved. Such a territory! So vast that if the white race should pour into it for 100 years at the rapid rates of the United States increase, it would still have only one half of what is considered a full wholesome population! A territory washed on the west by the great Mississippi and bathed on the east and south by the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico. A territory almost compact in its formation, immensely fertile-rich in minerals, abounding in water power, a genial climate and capa-ble of producing bountifully, almost every-thing that man or beast may require to eat, drink or weath. And why should not this area (giving as it does compactness and form

to the main body of the United State,) be dedicated to a free white race, who being homogeneous in all things, may develop the principles of constitutional liberty?great principles of constitutional liberty?— Why should a disturbing element be fastened upon it to create animosities, breed or rather nurture dissensions and mar our otherwise great homogeneous fabric?

It is hard to maintain republican and reg ulated liberty under the most favorable auspices, and we owe it to them, not to try dangerous experiments, which will be barren of any incidental good. In a government limited in area and population, and restrained in its will by outside pressure, republican lib-erty may possibly be well maintained even by weak and vicious citizens. The terror of infringment or punishment from without may force them to a wholesome administration a

But in one so vast in area, as ours now is and so great in population as it is soon destined to be, and whose will scarcely recognizes any restraint from abroad, none but enlightened citizens of civil equality can be safe depositaries of constitutional liberty.-The negro cannot be made such a citizen ex cept by long training, if at all. But that training is not feasible, because if he be held in civil inferiority he must continue to feel and to be abject, dependent and demoralized. While to raise him to civil equality in his ignorance poverty and vices must vitiate the whol mass. He cannot be elevated to the standard of the whites, but they may and would be drawn down towards his level. And the whole political mass in the South with this element infused into it, would become unsteady, wild and corrupt. The action of the free States has shown their recognition of this principle, even where the element is sosmall as it is with them. If such an infusion would be unsafe, where the proportion is as one to fifty or a hundred, how startling the idea when it is in equal proportions or as two to one the other way as it would be in some localities! Can th most dogged abstractionist, or wildest fanatic entertain such a proposition for a moment Dangerous experiments can hardly ever be justified in great and vital matters, but they may be partially extenuated, where they serve to present a great damage, or tend in cidentally effect a great good, material or otherwise. And we have accordingly heard an argument against the removal of the negro as follows. It is all important to every see tion of the Union, that cotton, rice and suga be largely produced and that negro labor alone can raise them to advantage. Now this calls to mind the old exploded humbug that cotton is king." It was loudly proclaimed by superficial secessionists, that by with holding it from the North the South could speedily bring her to terms, and that by keeping it from France and England they would be forced incontinently into our al liance.

The result is known, I only mention i

because I see lurking in the above proposition the same fallacy upon which the cotton king humbug was enthroned. It is a sort of set idea with superficial people that all things will remain as they are, and that when one thing changes others may not accommodate themselves to that change, and especially that governments, communities and indi-viduals will not endure inconveniance or resort to necessary alleviations rather than to sacrifice great and cherished principles. But the truth is that if the change be to their advantage and without the sacrifice of princi ple it will be gladly accepted; if otherwise they will obviate it as far as may be and thus or in some way, accommodate themselves to it. To illustrate. A railroad was proposed to be built from a market town to the inte rior of a farming country. It was strenuously urged that the stock would be valueless be cause the the town was in wagoning distance the farmers had teams, wagons &c., they and their fathers had always hauled to the market, and they would continue to But it was built with difficulty, the grass soon grew in the old wagon road, freights were remunerative on the railroad the wagons, teams and drivers found ample employment in hauling manures and cultivating more land, and the prosperity of the country was secured. The result of the King cotton humbug illustrates the other side of the picture. And so will it ever be Mere prejudices sustained by shallow dogmas often maintain a long and tyrannical sway, but they must eventually succumb before the steady march of truth. And may not the notion that negro labor is neccessary to produce the great staples mentioned, be long to such prejudices? I think it does. It had a two-fold origin—partly in truth and partly in fallacy. It was true that the negro, as a slave, could be more profitably employed in the production of those staple than otherwise. But to detect the fallacy, we should premise a little. The Southern States feared that the institution of slavery was in jeopardy, and they desired to perpetuate it. It was chiefly assailed in the North ern States and in England-both of which were deeply interested in, and greatly identified with cotton through their man ifac tures; and it was not deemed a bad stroke of policy to impress them with the idea that that depended upon negro labor, in the capacity of slaves. But the folly of extremists North and South, has worked the destruction of the institution, and the fallacy ought to be exploded with it. And the question presents itself to sensible men, whether the white man, with equal physical powers, more judgment, more industry, pride and perseverance, and a greater stimulus to exertion, cannot and will not produce more in any field of labor than his inferior, the ne-I know that the heat and insalubrity of the climate, where these staples are mo prolific, are brought forward in support of the fallacy; but I am satisfied that they are stand-props, which must fall before search-

First, in reference to cotton. In a very large proportion, perhaps in nine-tenths of the cotton territory, the heat of midsummer is hardly more intense than in the Northern States. It is true, the summers are longer, but the heat is not generally intense, except about midsummer, when it is equally so in the more Northern States, and especially in the large cities. More than half of North Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas and Texas, and nearly all of South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, are adapted to cotton. In North Carolina, however, though the soil is propitious, the yield has been moderated by the shortness of the warm season, the weed not having time fully to develope and mature. And probably the same is true as to the interior and colder portions of most of the other States mentioned. But recent experiments prove that this difficulty can be surely and profitably remedied, by the use of stimulating manures, such as guano, ashes, lime, stable manure, &c., all of which push the weed so vigorously and rapidly as to secure a full development and yield before frost— while they fertilize the soil. And what nobler enterprise could be offered to the ingenuity, skill and energy of the white man, than thus profitably to fertilize a vast region which heretofore languished under the superficial and exhausting system so common to slave labor. I firmly believe that if the way were fairly opened to him, he would in a few years double or treble the production of the article in these healthful and colder regions, unless the demand should become glutted. In these regions it will not be preended that the heat of summer is seriously oppressive, while it is indisputal ly true that ost of the lower portions of the Southern States are tempered even to pleasa, these in the summer by the constant play of the sea-

I may add, that most of the labor in the

tillage of cotton may be and ought to be accomplished before the oppressive heat of mid summer. Without touching the question whether the negro can stand heat better than the white man, I take the broad ground that the heat in the Southern States is not such, but that the white man can well endure it, and perform vigorous and profitable la-

Philosophers may well discuss the abstract question, and practical men should apply it when an exigency arises, but here there such extremity of heat as demands its appli-cation, even if it be true. The rice localities surely do not, and the statements already made apply generally to those of cotton and sugar. As to the sickliness of the localities of these great staples, something has already been said in reference to the cotton regions It is certainly true that much of the country in the South adjacent to the Mississippi and some other large rivers and swamps is pregnant with malaria or some other causes which produce summer and fall diseases. And it is strange how little has been done in the way of drainage and other proper sani-tary regulations by way of alleviation or remedy. It is known that some partial experiments on that score, have operated very beneficially, and I should be greatly deceived if the skill and attention of the white man. when duly directed to that matter under fair cuspices, should not, to a great extent, if not entirely obviate them. Former lethargy on this subject may be partially accounted for. Those localities have generally been in the hands of wealty planters, who occupied them more as speculating enterprises than as permanent residences, and who after the work ing season was nearly over, found it pleasant and convenient to resort to summer retreats while the negroes, as slaves, could be requi red and forced to remain, and if they sickened and died, their demise was considered chiefly as a property loss which did not materially curtail their general profits.

And perhaps in most cases the premises were in charge of an overseer, and the owner only visited and supervised them in the winter, while his family and residence were far away. These places were profitable in spite of the sickness and deaths among the negroes and the dashing, pushing and tem-porary system attaching to them did not invite or permit much collateral attention to matters of health. But things have changed, The negroes may and probably will to a great extent retire from those localities and if not, it will hardly be possible to maintain among them that police which is necessary and was formerly practicable. Negro labor as slaves was a very different thing from what it now is as freedmen. The negro may stand heat better than a white man, but think it has yet to be proved that he is less obnoxious to disease, while he is certainly less cleanly, less prudent in avoiding expos ure or in due care during sickness. If those localities are to be improved by sanitary expedients, it will have to be done by the white man, and that perhaps after being divided into smaller allotments among per-

nanent residents. If they cannot be improved, the white man being more careful and cleanly will find them less dangerous than the negro, and perhaps

will have more courage to encounter them, I can in no event see how negro labor, as reedmen, can enure to the benefit of those localities, but were it otherwise, it would be a most narrow policy on account of a few pe-culiar and relatively small though rich localities, to fasten a dangerous element on the great South with so much of other healthful and fertile territory adapted not only to those, but to so many other staples. In the one scale depend the peace, enlightenment and friendly co-operation of a vast country. having in charge the great principles of Constitutional liberty in the other the mere possibility, that some great staples might by chance be increased in certain localities, and which would surely be abundantly produced, even were those localities sunk to the bottom of the sea. Might not a suitable and accessible home for the negro be found in ome of our south-western territories ? If so there can hardly be a doubt as to the right or ability of the Government to move them there, either as a seperate people under our protection, or an integral portion of the Union; as might be thought best. To do so would work no territorial loss to the Government because he would feave a vacuum behind equal to what he would fill in his new home. And the white man would rush in and fill that vacuum. But if the negro re-main where he is, it is very questionable whether there will be much immigration of the white race to the South,

Indeed I fear that large numbers of the thites will flee the South, being unwilling to leave their families to hazard the political and social status existing, and to be intensi fied by a mungrel population. As things now are, emigration, with the whites, "is

bout as likely as immigration. And would it not be better for the Gov ernment to have a large homogenious popu-lation on the Mississippi, Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico rather than away off in the South western interior? While instead of the capital and teaming white race of the North being subjected to the troubles, hazards and trials of opening new regions, they would find (the negro being gone) millions of acres of good land, inviting their occupation at low rates, with the main elements, and facilities of civilized life already existing. Common roads, railroads, navigated rivers, state houses, court houses, school houses and churches prepared to their hands, and a sparse and poor but civilized population eady to give them a fraternal welcome .-This is a prolific subject, but I will stop, after having attempted to be suggestive rather than elaborate. My purpose is so to touch some of the great features of this question as to put my countrymen to thinking, and especially to excite the reflections of earnest xpanded, and patriotic statesmen. COLONUS.

EUROPEAN CHURCHES.—The following is the comparative capacity of the most cele-

brated churches in Europe: St. Peter's, Rome, will seat 54,000 persons; Milan Cathedral, 37,000; St. Paul's Rome, 32,000; St. Paul's, London, 25,000; Florence Cathedral, 24,300; St. Petronia, Bologna, 24,000; Antwerp Cathedral, 24,000; St. Sophia's, Constantinople, 23,000; St. John, Laterna, 22,900: Notre Dame, Paris, 21,000: Pisa Cathedral, 13,00); St. Stephens's, Vienna, 12,400; St. Peter's, Bologna, 11,400; Cathedral of Vienna, 11,100; St. Dominic's Bologna, 11,000; St. Mark's, Venice, 7,000.

HE KNEW HIS MAN.-The celebrated Bubb Doddington was very lethargick.— Falling asleep one day, after dinner with Sir Richard Temple and Lord Cobham, the General reproached Doddington with his drowsiness. Doddington denied having been asleep, and to prove that he had not, offered to repeat all that Lord Cobham had been saying. Cobham challenged him to do so. Doddington repeated a story, and Lord Cob-ham owned he had been telling it. "And ham owned h yet," said Doddington, "I did not hear a word of it; but I went to sleep, because knew about this time of the day you would tell that story."

During the month of November the Postmaster General ordered two hundred and fifty post-offices in the Southern States to be Fifty-four female postmasters were ap-

GLUTTON.-A fellow at Falls River, Masschusetts, last week, ate a turkey weighing nine pounds, on a wager, accomplishing the

[Special Correspondence of the Wash. Chronicle.] ALABAMA.

RESULT OF THE RECENT ELECTIONS.

Character of the Officers Chosen. The Secession Element in the State.

Proscriptive Laws Relative to the Freedm MONTGOMERY, ALA., December 9, 1965.

RESULT OF THE ELECTIONS. I have been a long time silent, constantly cherishing the hope that I would soon be able to write to you that I saw evidences o returning loyalty and good feeling in this part of the country. But the weeks go by one after another, and the current sets as perversely as ever. The elections have been eld. It was scarcely to be expected that Union men-those who had openly espoused the cause of the General Government agains the seceding States-would be elected to the State offices, though, in view of the oath required of members of Congress, it was thought that only those would be sent to claim seats in Washington who could take that oath,

For the Legislature, in view of the recen history of the State, a reasonable hope exis ted that those candidates would be whose past record was not likely to be par ticularly obnoxious to loyal men. But the secessionists have made a bold and success ful struggle to retain their political power in the State, and the conservative and Union candidates have been almost everywhere

beaten. The immediate object of the successful party is, doubtless, to prevent the crime or stigma of their treason to the General Government from being visited upon them in any way, and at the same time to manufacture public sentiment of honor and respect for reason and traitors, and a loathing and contempt for those who opposed secession and its consequences, and adhered to the Constitution and the Union.

PASSPORT TO OFFICE. The claims of the successful candidate were such as might have been expected to be urged if the Confederacy made good its establishment. "My services in the war, the wounds I have received, the sacrifices I have made, entitle me to your gratitude and your suffrage." This was the plea of the candi date, and the voters respended to it cordially at the polls. The greatest test of merit, th highest standard of qualification is to have lost a leg or an arm, an eve or a hand in arm against the Government.

The Provisional Governor, Mr. Parson himself, panders to his knowledge of this fact, and goes out of his way in his message to suggest to the Legislature that especial care must be taken of the battle-flags of rebel regiments left in his possession, which he calls "sacred souvenirs of the courage and endurance of those who went forth to battle under their folds, and who manfully upheld them with their life-blood,"

A SECESSION DEBATING CLUB.

Responding to this idea, the Legislature the use of the hall of the House to neetings of sundry gentlemen who propose to form a State historical society, to preserve the records of the deeds of the soldiers of Alabama, and to raise a fund to build a monment to those who died in the Confederate service. Perhaps nobody would have seriously objected to all this, but after one or two meetings the society appeared to have transforme l itself into a regular secession debating club, and any one that listened to the speakers could scarcely believe that they had lived in the land during the last twelve

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES is particularly full of the secession element Gov. Parsons and the Congressmen elect to keep the House within bounds. The members would not elect the Hon, George S Houston a Senator until they were over and over again assured that he could not take the 'iron-clad oath." Gov. Parsons, it was wellknown, could not take it. No man who can take it can be elected to any office by the Alabama Legislature.

ANXIETY FOR POLITICAL RESTORATION. Yet withal they are exceedingly anxious for full political restoration. You hear it every day in both houses of the General Assembly, that "the heel of the oppressor is on our necks; that we are doing these things because there is no other way for us to get rid of military government and military su-pervision of the laws we enact; that we must submit-submit, as one speaker said, ust as we submit to the highway robber who olds his pistol to our heads,"

But there is no shadow of pretence even of sorrow for past treason, no evidence whatever of respect for the Constitution, except so far as its provisions may be used as a shield to protect them from the consequences of their failure in rebellion. I do not look for love from them—the passions of men do not so quickly cool; but if ever there is to be a Union of love instead of a Union of hatred in the land, such politicians as now have the confidence of the Southern people must be laid upon the shelf.

THE SENATE. is composed of better material than the House. It is less rancorous, and more disposed to listen to common sense and reason. t passed a bill to confer the right to testify n court upon freedmen a few days since. When it came into the House the bill was violently opposed, and amended by a pro-viso that "in all cases where negroes were allowed to testify, both parties shall be competent witnesses, and no interest or relationship should disqualify either party from testifying in open court."

The reason given for this amendment was that if any negro brought a suit against a white man, and made up a combination of black witnesses against him, the white man could go upon the stand and "swcar back "swear him out of court."

The Senate refused to concur in this amend ment, and a committee of conference was appointed, which agreed to report the bill

as follows:

Be it enacted, &c., That all freedmen, free negroes, and mulattoes shall have the right to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, n all the different and various courts of this State to the same extent that white persons now have by law. * [That said freedmen, free negroes, and mulattoes shall have all the remedies for the recovery of property and redress of injuries on their persons, property, and reputation which white persons may have by law; and they shall be competent to testify only in open court and only in cases in which freedmen, free negroes, and mulattoes are parties, either plaintiff or de-fendant; and in civil and criminal cases for injuries in the persons, or property, [or reptoes, in which under this act, a freedman. free negro, or mulatto is a witness against a white person, or a white person against a freedman, free negro, or mulatto, the parties shall be competent witnesses, and neither interest in the question or suit, nor marriage, shall disqualify any witness from testifying

in open court.

The Senate concurred promptly in the report of the committee, but the House had got a new idea now, to wit: that the negro had no reputation that could be injured by a white man, and never should get any if they could help it; and the report was non-concurred in by a vote of 48 to 38.

HOW IT WAS DONE. This result was far from satisfactory to the gentlemen who were in the lobby waiting to get things right at home before starting for shington to get into seats in Congress,

and soon their arguments brought about a motion and a vote to reconsider. A new debate ended in another vote to non-c 47 to 87—and a new committee of conference was appointed. This committee reported back the bill with the words that are above enclosed in brackets stricken out, and in the new shape it was forced through both houses. It was immediately engrossed and approved by Governor Parsons, and the wires flashed forth to the world, (at Washington,) I have no doubt, that the privilege of testifying in the courts of Alabama was by law accorded

With a white judge, white lawyers, white juries, and the privilege of his white antagonist to "swear back at him"—much good will it doubtless do him.

A CURIOUS BILL.

Pending all these proceedings, the House passed a very curious bill—curious when you compare its contents with its title. It is called a bill "to protect the freedmen of Alabama." . It provides that "any white person or free person of color, or any corporation who leases or rents, or otherwise lets to free persons of color any tenement or land, or permits them to remain in any tenement or on any land, for any length of time, shall be responsible for the necessary food, clothing medical attendance, medicine, and for al taxes that may be imposed or laid by law on such free persons of color during the time such free persons of color are permitted to remain in such tenement or tenements, or on such land." If the party letting, &c., does not furnish all this, he is declared guilty of misdemeanor, subject to an indictment, con-viction, and fine of not less than fifty or more than one hundred dollars in each case. For each conviction under this act the solicitor prosecuting shall receive a fee of twenty-five dollars. The vote on this beautiful bill was -yeas 57; nays 26.

THE BLACK CODE The Mississippi Legislature passed a law prohibiting negroes from renting or acquiring lands. This was promptly disallowed by the United States authorities. Hence, the representatives in Montgomery do not prohibit the negro from leasing a house or lot but they make the man who lets him either house or land responsible for his bills to his butcher, his baker, his tailor, his doctor, and to the tax-collector. Of course no black man can bire himself a home under such a law. He will be driven out upon the roads with his family, and be at once a vagrant.

Then comes into play the vagrant law.-The Senate passed a stringent law upon the subject of vagrancy. It provides that the proper county or town authorities should purchase or rent lands and buildings for a house of correction, and make rules for the

government of the inmates. All vagrants might be sent to such house of correction, or to the county jail, for a term not exceeding three months. For a second conviction within six months, the offender shall receive thirty-nine lashes on his or her bare back or be fined fifty dollars, at the discretion of the justice, who also had discretion to hire out such vagrant for not exceeding six months, instead of committing him to the jail or house of correction. This law made no distinction between white vagrants and black ones. It is a stringent and summary law, well calculated to meet the exigencies of the times. There can be no ques tion that severe measures must be resorted to to put down the evil of laziness among the

But the House referred it to their committee, who reported a substitute for the whole bill, providing that a white vagrant should be imprisoned for the first time ten days and on a second conviction, twenty days while a black vagrant should be hired out a auction on a first conviction for six months and if he does not work faithfully for the person who hires him, he shall be brought before the justice, and, if convicted, shall be adjudged guilty of vagrancy again, receive thirty-nine lashes, and be hired out for twelve months, and so for every subsequent convic

This substitute is made the order of the day for Monday next, with a probability o its passing the House. The Senate may control the spirit that would thus legislate th negro back into the hands of the planter or whatever terms the planter might choose to give him; but the fact that the House shows such a spirit is a sad commentary upon the loud protestations of a universal desire to deal the freedman even-handed justice and protection.

The Senate has spent nearly all of to-day hammering out a bill to regulate contracts with freedmen. The principal debate was upon a section that provided that the laborer should have a lien upon the crops raised for his wages. It was first amended to except contracts made with the owner of the land for the reason given that the land was re sponsible for the wages, and the lien ought only be afforded to protect the negro against the designing people who would come down here from the North, hire farms, and go of with the crops without paying Sambo. Finally, however, the section was stricken out

This bill is still under consideration.

Intelligent negroes assure me that the freedmen do not want any of all this protection. They say that these people are not so ignorant of business as is alleged; that they know how to make their own bargains, and that they will be more oppressed by th trouble and expense involved in all thes proceedings to hedge them round than ben efitted by their operation. They do not agree with the legislative idea that they need guardians. All they ask is to be per mitted to make their own bargains for labor, just as white laborers do in the North. They say that the attempts of the Freedmen's Bureau to regulate the terms of their contracts have done them more harm than good.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19, 1865. Union of the Freedmen's and Union COMMISSIONS.—At the recent joint session of the American Freedman's Aid Commission and the American Union Commission, a resolution was unanimously adopted to unite the two Commissions in one. Bishop Simpson was chosen President

FUNERAL OF GOVERNOR CORWIN. The funeral of the late Gov. Corwin took place this afternoon. Among the pall-bearers were Chief Justice Chase, Lieut, Gen. Grant, Hon. W. H. Seward, Hon. Reverdy Johnson, Hon. Thaddeus Stevens, and other, prominent and distinguished individuals.

-Mr. Galt, the Canadian Minister, who has been in Washington canvassing the pros pect for a renewal of the Reciprocity Treaty, is reported to have given his colleagues to understand that they "mut look out for some other countries for trade than the United States."

The Clerk of the House of Representatives has received certificates of election of Southern members only from North Carolina, 7; Louisiana, 4; Mississippi, 2; Tennessee, 7; Virginia, 6, and Arkansas, 1. Some of these have been referred to the select committee.

-The President's message and Grant's report on the condition of affairs in the South is having a very marked effect in both Houses

The Radicals see nothing in it to change their views.

-Lieut, Gen. Scott arrived at New Orleans on the 12th inst.

MISSISSIPPI.

Legislature and the Freedmen.

The Constitutional Amendment. The Vicksburg Herald, of December 4th

It will be remembered that the freedmen's bill recently passed by the Legislature con-tains a clause prohibiting freedmen from rent-ing or leasing lands. As soon as information was received in Washington of the passage of the bill, the President ordered it to be disregarded. Gen. Howard issued an order to the Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau in this State, and the Secretary of War has ordered measures to be taken for the redress of such freedmen as may be ar-

rested for violating the law.

The insertion of such a proviso in the bill by the Legislature was uncalled for and unnecessary. The negroes of this State own no lands, and if they rent, lease, or buy, they have to obtain the land from the white citihave to obtain the land from the white zens. The result of this useless piece of leg-islation is seen in the State being put in an-tagonism to the policy of the Government just at the time when we need friends at Washington, and would like to make new ones, instead of alienating the only friends we have heretofore met there.

The following is a copy of the despatch furnished us from the office of Colonel Thomas:

WARHINGTON, Nov. 30, 1865.

To Col. Samuel Thomas: While the bureau remains in Mississipp you will continue to protect the freedm the right to lease lands. The action of the lature referred to in your telegram of the 27th is not recognized here. By order of Major General Howard,

MAX WOODHULL, A. A. G. Another despatch was also received, cov-ering an order from the Secretary of War, directing investigation to be made in all case where freedmen are arrested for violating the law above referred to, and to report the facts to Washington, in order that prompt redress may be afforded.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT. It appears that the Legislature reconsider ed the vote rejecting the Constitutional Amendment, and ratified it in the following form:

Resolved, by the Legislature of the State of Mississippi, That the proposed amendment of the Constitution of the United States be and the same is hereby ratified.

Resolved further, That this ratification is expressly made and adopted upon the conditions and with the reservations following: 1st. It shall not be construed into an approval or endorsement of the political prin ciple or doctrine that the reserved rights of a State can, without the consent of such State, be usurped or abridged by the Federal Government, through the instrumentality of a

constitutional amendment 2d. It shall not be constaned into expresse or complied consent on the part of the Legislature, that Congress shall abolish slavery where it lawfully exists in any State that may refuse to ratify said amendment.

3d. The emancipation of slavery in this State being a fixed fact—distinctly recognized by her condition and by recent legis lative enactments designed in good faith to maintain and protect the civil rights of the freedmen appertaining to their new condi-tion of freedom.

The 2d section of said amendment shall not be construed as a grant of power to Con gress to legislate in regard to the freedmen of this State; but so far as relates to this State, it shall be construed simply as a grant of power to Congress by appropriate legisla tion to prohibit and prevent the re-establish ment of slavery therein.

ORDER BY GENERAL OSTERHAUS. We find the following in the Vicksburg Herald of the 5th :

"General Osterhaus, commanding the Wes-tern District of Mississippi, has designated the city and fortifications of the city as post of Vicksburg, and Colonel H. Leib, 5th United States colored heavy artillery, is assigned

to duty as post commandant,
"General Osterhaus has issued a stringen order against discharging fire-arms inside the fortifications. He says it must be stopped at once, and to that end has ordered all sidearms and revolvers found in possession of soldiers to be seized, and any soldier found discharging his gun outside of the camps to be arrested and confined in the military prison to be tried by court martial. Every soldier appearing in public with arms when off duty is to be tried for disobedience of or-

"Some little excitement was occasioned on Washington street, on Sunday afternoon, in consequence of the negro guard demanding the pistol of a citizen, (which he had in his belt,) as they said, under orders. The de-mand was refused, and the guard sent for reinforcements, who seized the citizen in an unnecessarily rough manner, jerking him about on the pavement, and punching with bayonets, and marched him off to the provost marshal. The provost decided that the arrest was entirely unauthorized; that no such instructions were issued, and promised to have the offenders punished. We learn that General Osterhaus ordered an investigation to be made in the affair, yesterday morning, and we are assured that the guilty parties will not escape."

RESOLUTIONS RELATIVE TO THE PRESIDENT. The following are the resolutions in relation to the President of the United States, which were adopted by the Legislature before adjourning sine die :
Be it resolved by the Senate, (the House

Representatives concurring.) That the Legislature of the State of Mississippi expresses its confidence in the administration of Andrew Johnson, President of the United States, so far as his public course has been developed in endeavoring to restore the people of the Southern States to their constitutional relations to, and equal rights in, the Union; to the benefit which may flow from their participation in the councils of a re-union of

It acknowledges his honesty of purpose his firmness and determination, which thus far has marked his official career; and it extends to him the assurance that his patriotic and noble efforts to heal the wounds of the country, and to restore the Southern States to equality, representation, and prosperity, meets its sanction and approval.

Resolved, further, That the Legislature of this State thank President Johnson for the various acts of official elemency and kindness he has shown the people; and that they look forward with an abiding hope, but an equally anxious solicitude, for that happy day when a general amnesty to one and all shall crown his name with unfading honor, and enable the people of a common country to hold a common rejoicing.

Resolved, further, That a copy of these re-

solutions be transmitted, through his Excel-lency, the Governor of Mississippi, to the President of the United States.

From Chill. NEW YORK, Dec. 20th-Valparaiso advices state that there is but little change in Chilian war matters. The people are becoming daily more united against Spain.

-A gentleman from Texas, says that it is not known what has become of Senator. Wigfall. It is considered certain that he has not crossed the State into Mexico, and if in Many believe that he is dead.

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT-THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DULY RATIFIED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18 .- The following official announcement has been promulgated from the State Department:

from the State Department:

To all to whom these presents may come Greeting: Know ye, that whereas the Congress of the United States on the first day of February last, passed a resolution which is in the words following, namely; "A resolution submitting to the legislatures of the several States a proposition to amend the Constitution of the United States.

Resolved, By the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both

in Congress assembled, two-thirds of both Houses concurring, that the following article Houses concurring, that the following article be proposed to the legislatures of the several States as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which, when ratified by three-fourths of said Legislatures, shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of

the said Constitution, namely:
Article 18, section 1. Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as punifor crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States or any place subject to their jurisdianics.

SEC. 2. Congress shall have power to en-force this article by appropriate legislation. And whereas, it appears from official doc-uments on file in this Department, that the amendment to the Constitution of the United States, proposed as aforesid, has been ratified by the Legislatures of the States of Illinois, Rhode Island, Michigan, Maryland, New York, West Virginia, Maine, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Ohio, Missouri, Nevada, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Vermont, Tennessee, Ar-kansas, Connecticut, New Hampshire, South

Carolina, Alabama, North Carolina and Georgia-in all twenty-seven States. And, whereas the whole number of States in the United States is thirty-six; and, whereas the before specially named States whose legislatures have ratified the said proposed amendment, constitute three-fourths of the whole number of States in the United

Now, therefore be it known, that I, William H. Seward, Secretary of State of the United States, by virtue and in pursuance of the second section of the act of Congress approved the 20th of April, 1818, entitled "an act to provide for the publication of the laws of the United States, and for other purposes,' do hereby certify that the amenda said has become valid to all intents and purposes, as a part of the Constitution of the United States.

In testimony whereof, I have herewith set my hand and caused the seal of the Depart-

ment of State to be affixed. Done at the city of Washington, this eighteenth day of December, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and sixty-five; and of the Independence of the United States of America, the ninetieth. W. H. SEWARD,

Secretary of State. Advices from Havana and Vera Cruz state that additional forces are being forwarded to Mexico; twenty-five hundred French troops had already arrived at the latter port. Latest intelligence from Paris states that six thousand French soldiers had embarked for Mexi-

co. It would seem that Napoleon has anticipated and is preparing to meet the policy of the United States in reference to the Mexican Republic. Letters from New Orleans dated the 12th inst., state that an old and estimable citizen of New Orleans returned from Matamoras · was i timate there with French officers. He says they fully anticipate war between France and the United States, and believe it will commence on the Rio Grande, They already have a plan of the campaign mapped out, which anticipates the sudden crossing of United States troops over the Rio Grande on pontoons, they will then abandon Matamoras and the Rio Grande, and fall back on Monterey, which will be held as a strategic point. These officers claim to be thoroughly informed as to all the means the United States have at their disposal here and

in Texas for an advance into Mexico. A Vera Cruz letter says troops from France continue to arrive, six hundred more disembarking on the 2d instant, who were immediately sent into the field.

-A. B. Mullett, Esq., Assistant Architect of the Treasury Department, has just returned from the South, where he has been inspecting the government buildings, under an order directed to him, some weeks ago, by the Secretary of the Treasury. The old Custom-house and Marine Hospital at Charleston were found to be so badly wrecked that they will be useless. Mr. Mullett reports that the government buildings in the other Southern cities are generally in fair condition, and will require but little repairing.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19 .- The decree of Maximilian of September last having been submitted to Attorney General Speed, that officer pronounced the opinion that its provisions make the working men in Mexico slaves! Secrerary Seward enclosed this opin-ion to the United States Minister at Paris, who, at Mr. Seward's request, called the at-tention of the French Government to the subject, but no answer to his communication has been received.

THE TEST OATH. The Secretary of the Treasury officially

acknowledges that he has appointed officers who have not subscribed to the test oath, he having failed to obtain others who could be relied on for the performance of the revenue duties required to be performed, as nearly every man in the South fit for a revenue officer has, at some time, either engaged in hostilities against the Government, or holding State or Confederate offices either willingly or unwillingly. The Secretary acted upon the assumption that Congress would modify the oath, and not subject the South to the humiliation, or the revenue service to the odium which would result from the employment of Northern men as tax-gatherers. He suggests the necessity of immediate action upon the subject.

OPERATIONS OF THE FREEDMEN'S BUREAU. General Howard, Superintendent of the Freedmen's Bureau, in an elaborate report, makes many recommendations. He says that wherever the planters have taken advan; je of the aid offered by the Bureau the iest results have followed; that the Bureau, in conjunction with the military force, is at present a means of encouraging immigration to the different Southern States, and hat as nearly \$12,000,000 will be required for the expenditures of the Bureau for next year, he does not feel that the difficult probem given him has been solved, nor d hope for complete and satisfactory results in the work of the Buresu; yet he firmly be-lieves that the same just God that conducted us to freedom, will so continue to direct us the United States his locality is a secret.— have made that freedom shall, be a substantial reality.